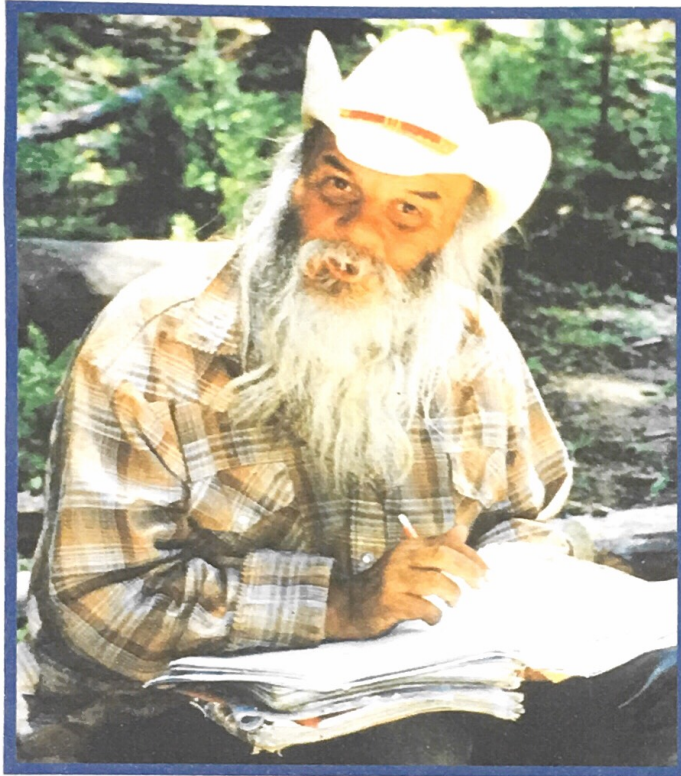




Rainbow Family

Life Stories



by Jodey Bateman.
Interviews with Rainbow
Family of Living Light
folks conducted between
1977 and 2008.

Scanned in 2018.

Jodey Bateman may be
contacted on Facebook.

or jodey.bateman@yahoo.com

07.A KASHFI, LUCAS and HAYA - "Give Each
Other Strength"
-interviewed at the 1978 Oregon
Gathering

8 pages

[07.A]

(191)

Kashfi, Lucas and Haya - Give Each Other Strength

SP1

[These interviews with Kashfi, her son Lucas and her friend Haya were done at the 1978 Oregon Gathering.]

KASHFI

The best time for telling about my life is when Lucas, my nine year old son can hear it and say, "Mommy, did you really run away from your mommy?"

I've been with my brothers and sisters since I was 15 years old. I was born in 1952 in Los Angeles. My father was an insurance salesman. My parents didn't get divorced until after I left home.

I used to sit in the back door of my house looking at my boots and looking out at the sunset, and I could feel this energy course through me. And I knew it was a real beautiful world and it was stupid to hang around home and listen to all that ridiculous stuff.

I ran away from home for the first time when I was 13. I didn't get very far until I got caught. They put me in the state mental hospital for a while. I ran away so many times. Then finally I ran away to San Leandro and shot speed for a while. I didn't have to do that very long to go through it all. My mother likes speed - all kinds of pills and a lot of coffee. But she doesn't think of herself as a drug person. Anything she has two of, she'll give one away. She doesn't cop to any spiritual trip, either. You wouldn't want to get on her bad side - I did a little, but I'm real special to her.

I ran away to Haight Ashbury in 1968. That feeling there! It was so strong! It was beautiful! I was pregnant and just turned 16 years old.

I'm trying to deal with those drug memories. It feels like it was somebody else it happened to, but it made me what I am today. Drugs turn you inward, make you sensitive to what's there.

I got busted and flown home. Then I went to Chicago and lived on Wells Street with some rock musicians. They were the friendliest people I

had ever met. They were country people from Bloomington, Indiana. Then I went to Boston, then back to Bloomington to see the musicians. My baby, Lucas, was born there.

I would have been afraid of having a baby if I had thought about it, but I was in that space where I felt that I would be taken care of and everything was all right. I hitched all over with Lucas. He's lived his whole life just hanging around. When he was little, as young as three, he'd just walk off from home until somebody brought him home. I knew he was all right and he knew he was all right, but I had to get mad at him to keep him out of trouble with the police. He just wanted to go off and do things by himself.

We got into living in tents. We've stayed in people's living rooms. Once we lived in a chicken house. It was so clean, so beautiful. I purified it. I put up pictures on the wall - like one of Hanuman, the Hindu monkey god.

It was different when Lucas had to go to school. It's hard to keep your kid in school when you're moving around. But Lucas is very outgoing. He's so smart it's funny. He's never been a home person. He doesn't mind school. He just sees it as another part of life. Everything is OK to him. He doesn't know the difference between anything and anything.

We live in a house now in Fairfax, California. I make home made clothes for a living. "American Gypsy," that's what I call my clothes. Some of my ancestors are Basque gypsies.

I haven't used speed for ten years. I can't even drink coffee and I barely drink cocoa. A little bit of Coca Cola gets me off. You do drugs for a while and then you figure out what you needed to figure out and then you don't need them anymore. You just go on following your own vision. I used them until I got my vision and then I had a firm enough rock to stand on.

(193)

Something to go on. Drugs are just a way of asking the question. It would be sacrilegious to ask the same question over and over after they've found the answer. I've seen people who have taken a thousand acid trips and they're still blank. They're still beautiful, but they're asking over and over again like a stuck record.

I don't smoke pot, but I'm just starting to let Lucas smoke pot with people around so he'll be used to it.

I first heard about the Rainbow Gathering two or three years ago. I just got to come here to the Oregon Gathering with Lucas this year. It feels real good with healing and centering.

LUCAS II

I used to go to public school. It was dumb. They'd send you to the office for no reason. You just say one word and the teacher would say, "Go to the office," or, "Stand in the hall."

So then I went to the Seed Center. It was in an apartment building. I liked it. If you accidentally did something, they wouldn't do anything. They'd say, "Don't do it again." I don't know what I learned. I learned so much.

I loved hitch hiking around with my mother. We used to not be able to get picked up and we had to sleep by the side of the road. We lived in a chicken house when I was six or seven. There were too many feathers and stuff. But I like a tent better than a house.

HAYA

I live in the same house with Kashfi and her children. I really came to the Rainbow Gathering to be healed. Something is coming up from real deep inside me. Since I was a girl of five, I've had this real deep pain.

I was born in South Bend, Indiana in 1951. I had a hernia when I was five years old and they cut my stomach open. I don't believe in surgery.

They didn't put my stomach back together right. I learned that in a vision.

My grandfather was a Hassidic Jew. He was a goatherder in the Carpathian mountains in Austria-Hungary when he was a boy. Once I played a record of Japanese flute and koto music for him and he cried.

194

it sounded so much like the music he heard back in Austria-Hungary. Every summer since I was eight, I left my parents and went and lived with these beautiful people in cabins in Michigan. It was like a summer camp, except they didn't lay a trip on you. My parents thought it was a regular summer camp. They were glad to get rid of me. Up in Michigan at the camp, they would let kids sail boats, no matter how young they were. I got turned onto drugs and sex at that camp. The camp was run through the YMCA.

The camp was on this island with an Indian burial mound in the middle. One night I woke up and saw a ship from outer space on the mound and I said, "Oh, no! I must be asleep." Then a door opened and I could see into the ship and it was beautiful. I wanted to wake somebody up to tell me I wasn't dreaming. It went on forever. Once this brother and I photographed some UFO's from the camp and sent the photos to the government.

This brother at the camp turned me onto acid when I was 16. Another brother who turned on with us couldn't talk for two years afterward. When he finally did, he went on a real religious trip. He wouldn't talk to me until two years ago. I didn't know what I was doing in those days. I was totally innocent. I learned from acid what the brotherhood thing really was. I could see the glow around them. When I went back home to South Bend, it was like I would leave my body. I just waited for the rest of the year to go to camp in Michigan.

The summer of 1968 I lived in Israel and things started changing for me. I feel very much part of the Jewish tribal thing—not part of the Jewish culture we have here in the US. I have some deep Jewish brothers and some deep Arab brothers there. It's so tragic—the division.

After 1969 I grew up in soul in Brown County, Indiana. When I left my parents and moved there, it was all forest. Very spiritual.

I went back to Israel in 1971. I used to hide my dope in the wall of the old city of Jerusalem when I was dealing dope with this motorcycle group. I'd walk around the wall at night and it was so heavy. I speak Hebrew and a little Arabic. We'd deal acid to the Arabs and they'd

always ask, "Does it have speed?" They loved it that way. It had to have speed or they wouldn't take it. Then I came back to this country.

I stayed with Kashfi. Then in 1972, I joined a very special Indian man, a healer, on his bus. He was going to the Rainbow Gathering in Colorado to set up the healing center. He picked me up in Tucson and we went to New Mexico to figure out a way to make some money. We were on our way to Redding, California and then to the gathering, but we couldn't get alone. He was in his sixties and I was 21. I wasn't scared of him. He would tell me I reminded him of his mother on the reservation and that there was no one worse. But I knew he loved me, because he said I was his mother.

After we had a quarrel in a sandstorm, I jumped out of the bus and didn't go to the gathering. I hitched back to Tucson and saw Kashfi. She had just had her daughter Sura and we went to Ruby, a ghost town. There were a bunch of our kind of outlaws there. They used to run dope across the border. Kashfi said it was freaking her out - just too primitive.

So she got money and flew to Indiana and I hitched to meet her there. I really grew up on that trip, because it was the longest I had ever hitched in America. Once I was sleeping on the way. Two cars crashed on the road. I went over to help them and they rolled their windows up. They were scared of me. So I walked on and they sent the police after me.

This brother cop said, "Do you want to spend the night in the desert by yourself?"

I said, "I don't know, what's the option?"

He said, "You'd better come with me."

I thought, "Well, what can happen to me that hasn't already?"

He took me to his brother's and we smoked dope and slept together and then he took me to the best place to get a ride.

On the way to Indiana, I got a ride with a truck driver to Idaho. He held a gun on me. Most of my life has been very good. I regret that there are things like that. I thought, "This man is gonna rape me!" Then I thought, "Look, you're not a virgin. This man's your brother."

And I decided to be as pure as I could. My vibe changed and he could tell it. I said, "Listen, I don't want to get pregnant with your baby. Please don't let that happen." And he put on a rubber. I thought that was beautiful. So we made love and it wasn't rape. Rape would have been bad for him as well as me. When we got to Idaho, he wanted me to go on with him and I wouldn't. I didn't like him. I went off with these hippies and made love with one of them to clean out.

I finally met up with Kashfi in Indiana. Three days later she went to Boston. Then I met up with this beautiful sister and went with her to Green County, Indiana to raise goats. I brought this sister and my other friends who raised goats home to South Bend. My great-aunts were there. They had herded goats back in Austria-Hungary and they had crossed the ocean to get away from that life, and they wondered why I wanted to do it. My grandfather cried and told me, "You don't have to be a gypsy."

I got too spaced in Green County. I would be driving along the road and I'd go off in a ditch. And I wasn't doing any drugs. I bumped into three parked cars in Bloomington.

So I went to Indiana University and studied Biblical Hebrew and Arabic and medieval studies, how back then Jewish and Arab philosophers had been together without division. A lot of my studies have been devoted to the bringing together of Christians, Muslims and Jews. And my professors loved me. They invited me to their homes. They wanted me to go to a school of medieval studies in Toronto. But I decided I couldn't live in another period. I had to live in the here and now. Kashfi came back with her kids and I couldn't live in another world any more.

My grandfather died in a car wreck in 1973. I threw the I Ching after I heard he was dead, for strength. I throw it every day. Then I split from my body and hung out with my grandfather's spirit until other beings embraced him and he left.

(197)

I embraced him on his journey until they came. His spirit felt freaked from the jar of the car crash, and so I knew it felt good to him to have me holding onto him. I've dreamed about meeting him in a garden. He was an angel. Children flocked to him. When he died, all kinds of people showed up that we didn't know and said things like, "Jake gave us this money 40 years ago and we want to return it," and we just told them to give it away.

I felt bad for a long time because my parents didn't like my life. Then I had to call my father because he had access to some money of mine I needed. He said, "I bet you think this is going to be an unpleasant conversation, don't you?" and he said, "I want to thank you for opening my life as nothing else could. So they're glad for my life style now."

I delivered Kashfi's youngest baby Judah in 1974. Kashfi and I split up a lot and then come back together. We're real sisters in our hearts.

I went to a lot of classes in healing in San Francisco or Woodstock, New York, or all over, but I found they were no use to me. I've been initiated into healing orders. I feel funny about saying these things, but it's so. When I heal, it's an energy that comes through me. I'm not the one operating the show. I don't learn from the classes. I spent a little time with Dolma, a Tibetan healer who showed me how to deal with the negative energy that someone puts on you and not reflect it. She taught me to pray for the people you heal that they might have a long, happy life and be reincarnated in the Buddha heaven.

I've known about the Rainbow Gatherings for years. I've met Michael John of the Rainbow Family at Healing Waters Festival at the Spring equinox in Eden, Arizona. He's into deep things that I don't practice. I've been real sick since the Healing Waters Festival, but it's becoming clear to me what the trouble was, what I need to get together.

I stayed separate from my brothers and sisters for a long time until I got the teachings straight I needed, so I came to the gathering in Oregon. It's been physically exhausting getting here. Kashfi's youngest son, Judah, was left behind with some other people

198

who were on the way to the Rainbow Gathering and their car broke down, so we didn't know where Judah was for two days. But they got to the gathering. The gathering feels right. I feel like I might have a baby in a few months. I feel like I might be getting ready for it here at the Rainbow Gathering.

I had a dread before I came to the gathering. I didn't know what it was. Now I know the dread is for the whole earth. It's a heavy time we live in. This spring and summer 1978 is a time to get ourselves together for what's coming. This gathering—every gathering is so important for brothers and sisters to come together and give each other strength.